

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior listings, and versions, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 41 wherein the suspension is adapted to retract the bodyside liner subsequent to stretching of the bodyside liner.
5. (Previously presented) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 41 wherein the suspension comprises at least one elastic cord located between the bodyside liner and the absorbent body, the elastic cord being stretched axially upon stretching of the bodyside liner.
6. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 5 wherein the suspension comprises multiple cords arranged in parallel, spaced apart relation to each other.
7. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 5 wherein the absorbent article comprises a garment worn to capture waste from the human body, the garment including an anterior region, a posterior region and a crotch region disposed longitudinally therebetween, said anterior region, posterior region and crotch region being integrally formed and configured when worn to define a central waist opening and a pair of leg openings, the crotch region extending generally laterally between said leg openings and wherein the cord extends lengthwise generally parallel to line extending from the anterior region to the posterior region.

8. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 7 wherein the cord is attached to the bodyside liner by adhesive.

9. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 7 wherein the bodyside liner is free of fixed connection to the outer cover and absorbent body at least in the crotch region.

10. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 5 wherein the cord is made of a material selected from a group including a styrene-butadiene elastomer and a spandex fiber in the form of continuous microfilaments.

11-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) An absorbent garment for capturing human waste when worn, the garment comprising:

a liquid impermeable outer cover adapted to stretch upon application of a load by a first amount;

a liquid and vapor permeable bodyside liner generally superposed and coextensive with the outer cover, the bodyside liner being adapted to stretch upon application of the load by a second amount, the bodyside liner comprising a stretchable sheet of liquid and vapor permeable material defining a bodyfacing surface, and plural cords of resilient elastic material on a side of the sheet opposite the bodyfacing surface, the cords applying a resilient force in opposition to stretching of the sheet;

an absorbent body located between the bodyside liner and the outer cover and generally movable with the outer cover upon stretching of the outer cover; and

said first amount of stretch of the outer cover being greater than said second amount of stretch of the bodyside liner

whereby a gap is formed between the bodyside liner and the absorbent body facilitating the flow of air and vapor through the bodyside liner in a loaded condition of the absorbent body.

24. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 23 wherein the absorbent garment includes an anterior region, a posterior region and a crotch region disposed longitudinally therebetween, said anterior region, posterior region and crotch region being integrally formed and configured when worn to define a central waist opening and a pair of leg openings, the crotch region extending generally laterally between said leg openings and wherein the cords extend lengthwise generally parallel to line extending from the anterior region to the posterior region.

25. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 24 wherein the cords are attached to the bodyside liner by adhesive.

26. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 24 wherein the bodyside liner is free of fixed connection to the outer cover and absorbent body at least in the crotch region.

27. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 23 wherein the cord is made of a material selected from a group including a styrene-butadiene elastomer and a spandex fiber in the form of continuous microfilaments.

28. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 23 wherein the bodyside liner is adapted to stretch in a range from about 30% to about 200% of its original length.

29. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 28 wherein the bodyside liner is adapted to stretch in a range from about 50% to about 150% of its original length.

30. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 29 wherein the bodyside liner is adapted to stretch in a range from about 80% to about 120% of its original length.

31. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 23 wherein the bodyside liner will further stretch at 50% of its maximum extension upon application of a load of at least about 30 g/in.

32. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 31 wherein the bodyside liner will further stretch at 50% of its maximum extension upon application of a load of at least about 50 g/in.

33. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 32 wherein the bodyside liner will further stretch at 50% of its maximum extension upon application of a load of at least about 60 g/in.

34. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 33 wherein the bodyside liner will further stretch at 50% of its maximum extension upon application of a load less than about 150 g/in.

35. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 23 wherein the bodyside liner has a retraction force at 50% of its maximum extension of at least about 9 g/in.

36. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 35 wherein the bodyside liner has an retraction force at 50% of its maximum extension of at least about 15 g/in.

37. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 36 wherein the bodyside liner has an retraction force at 50% of its maximum extension of at least about 18 g/in.

38. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 37 wherein the bodyside liner has an retraction force at 50% of its maximum extension of less than about 120 g/in.

39. (Original) An absorbent garment as set forth in claim 23 wherein the garment is free of material on the side of the bodyside liner opposite the absorbent body and between the bodyside liner and the absorbent body.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously presented) An absorbent article comprising:
an outer cover adapted to stretch upon application of a load by a first amount;

a liquid and vapor permeable bodyside liner defining a bodyfacing surface and being generally superposed and coextensive with the outer cover, the bodyside liner being adapted to stretch upon application of the load by a second amount, said bodyside liner comprising a sheet of liquid and vapor permeable material and a suspension arranged to resiliently oppose stretching of the bodyside liner;

an absorbent body located between the bodyside liner and the outer cover and generally movable with the outer cover upon stretching of the outer cover; and

said first amount of stretch of the outer cover being greater than said second amount of stretch of the bodyside liner whereby a gap is formed between the bodyside liner and the absorbent body facilitating the flow of air and vapor through the bodyside liner in a loaded condition of the absorbent body, the bodyside liner being relatively more resilient when stretched than the outer cover.

42. (Canceled)